

1. A handle for a tool having a work-performing component with a primary  
2 line of attack and a natural arc of motion, comprising:  
a distal end coupled directly or indirectly to the work-performing component; and  
4 a gripping portion extending away from the distal end, the shape of the gripping  
portion being such that a user's wrist, forearm, or both, are in a substantially neutral  
6 position with respect to the primary line of attack and throughout at least a portion of the  
natural arc of motion.
2. The handle of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion is generally  
2 curvilinear, describing a partial semi-circle or semi-oval.
3. The handle of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion generally describes a  
2 partial semi-circle having a radius on the order of 3 to 4 inches.
4. The handle of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion is generally  
2 curvilinear, describing a closed circle or oval.
5. The handle of claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional circumference of the  
2 gripping portion is in range from 3.5 to 5 inches, or thereabouts.
6. The handle of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion further includes a  
2 slight taper along its length.
7. The handle of claim 1, wherein the circumference of the gripping portion  
2 describes a flattened ellipsis.
8. The handle of claim 1, wherein the work-performing component includes  
2 a trowel, cultivator, weeder, or hoe.

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9. The handle of claim 1, in combination with a long-handled tool such as a  
2 rake or shovel

10. The handle of claim 1, in combination with a mid-length or telescoping  
2 version of a short-handled tool.

11. A quick-release version of the handle of claim 1, adapted for use with an  
2 existing tool having a straight shaft.

12. The tool of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion includes a polymeric  
2 covering.